



Media Contact: Dawn Kellogg
Communications Manager
(585) 232-1366 ext. 3059
dkellogg@gevatheatre.org

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DIVE INTO THE HORNETS' NEST AT GEVA THEATRE CENTER

*Geva's nationally recognized program of thought-provoking theatre begins
Monday, October 24.*

October 13, 2011, Rochester, N.Y. - Few experiences can ignite a great conversation like a thrilling night in the theatre. **The Hornets' Nest** series has theatre-goers itching for that conversation.

The Hornets' Nest series of script-in-hand readings with professional actors and directors returns with three plays investigating the most difficult and controversial questions of today. Following each reading, audience members will have the opportunity to engage in open discussion with key figures from the Rochester community. Since its inception in 2007, the Hornets' Nest series of readings has become nationally recognized and lauded as one of the most innovative theatrical initiatives in the country.

The 2011-2012 series opens on October 24 with *Freud's Last Session* by **Mark St. Germain**. On the day England enters World War II, the legendary psychoanalyst Dr. Sigmund Freud clashes with the young C.S. Lewis about love, sex and the existence of God and the meaning of life – just weeks before Freud takes his own life. Is there common ground between faith and reason? What happens when science and religion are used as justification for action? **Kenneth Tigar**, recently seen as Norman in Geva's production of *On Golden Pond* plays Sigmund Freud, and Professor of Theatre at Nazareth College and local actor **Matt Ames** plays C.S. Lewis.

Playwright **Mark St. Germain** has written the plays *Camping with Henry and Tom* (Outer Critics Circle Award and Lucille Lortel Award), *Out of Gas on Lover's Leap* and *Forgiving Typhoid Mary* (Time Magazine's "Year's Ten Best"), *Ears on a Beatle* and *The God Committee*, all published by Samuel French and Dramatist Play Service. With Randy Courts, he has written the musicals *The Gifts of the Magi*, *Johnny Pye and the Foolkiller*, winner of an AT&T "New Plays for the Nineties Award" and *Jack's Holiday* at Playwrights Horizons. Mark's musical, *Stand by Your Man: The Tammy Wynette Story* was created for Nashville's Ryman Theater. Television credits include Writer and Creative Consultant for

“The Cosby Show.” He co-wrote the screenplay for Carroll Ballard’s Warner Brothers film, *Duma*. Mark directed and co-produced the upcoming documentary, *My Dog: an Unconditional Love Story*, featuring, Richard Gere, Glenn Close and Edward Albee among many others. Mark has written the children’s book, *Three Cups*. He is an alumnus of New Dramatists, where he was given the Joe A. Callaway Award, a member of the Dramatists Guild, the Writer’s Guild East and a Board Member of the Barrington Stage Company. He was awarded the “New Voices In American Theatre” award at the William Inge Theatre Festival.

Following the reading of *Freud’s Last Session*, audience members will have the opportunity to discuss the questions that the play poses with a panel of members of the community brought together specifically for this event. This panel will include **Eric Caine, MD**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

The Hornets’ Nest series continues with *Coyote on a Fence by Bruce Graham* on February 27. *Coyote on a Fence* explores the state of our justice system. Can a person be innocent though proven guilty? Is our justice system fair and just enough to include capital punishment? Is the Death Penalty a viable punishment?

The series concludes on May 14 with a play that is yet to be announced.

Play readings are at 7:00pm in the Fielding Nextstage. Tickets are free and, due to the popularity of this series, are limited to two per person. Reservations are recommended. Due to anticipated demand, all unclaimed tickets will be released at 6:45pm on the day of performance. Patron discretion is advised: plays deal with adult subject matter. To reserve tickets phone the Box Office: (585) 232-Geva (4382) or reserve online at www.gevatheatre.org.

The Hornets’ Nest. Think Theatre.

**For further information, or to arrange interviews,
contact Dawn Kellogg, Communications Manager, (585) 232 1366 x 3059.**

GEVA THEATRE CENTER

Founded in 1972, Geva Theatre Center is a not-for-profit, professional theatre company dedicated to creating and producing professional theatre productions, programs and services of a national standard. As Rochester’s leading professional theatre, Geva Theatre Center is the most attended regional theatre in New York State, and one of the 25 most attended in the country, attracting over 170,000 patrons annually, including more than 16,000 students.

The 552-seat Elaine P. Wilson Mainstage offers a wide variety of shows, from musicals to American and world classics. The 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Nextstage is home to Geva's own series of cutting-edge drama, comedy and musical theatre; Geva Comedy Improv; Geva's New Play Reading Series and the Hornet's Nest - an innovative play-reading series facilitating community-wide discussion on controversial topics. The Nextstage also hosts visiting companies of both local and international renown.

Geva Theatre Center offers a wide variety of educational, outreach and literary programs, nurturing audiences and artists alike. Since 1995 the organization has been led by Artistic Director Mark Cuddy.

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